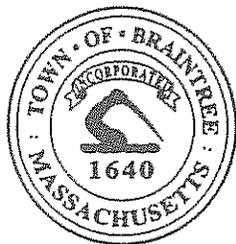


# Department of Planning and Community Development

90 Pond Street  
Braintree, MA 02184  
781 794-8230



Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan

## Braintree Conservation Commission

Patrick Flynn, Chair  
Donald Murphy, Vice-Chair  
Diane Francis  
Matthew Hobin  
Daniel J. McMorrow, Jr.  
Gail Poliner-Feldman  
Alan Weinberg

Staff Kelly Phelan

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011

**APPROVED**

Members Present: Patrick Flynn, Chair  
Gail Feldman  
Diane Francis  
Matthew Hobin  
Daniel McMorrow, Jr.  
Gus Murphy  
Alan Weinberg

Staff: Kelly Phelan

### Public Hearings

#### **Notice of Intent DEP File # 8-606 915-1001 Liberty St./Sun Valley Estate's Homeowner's Association**

Staff said the applicant needed more time to get their additional materials together and requested a continuance to the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Mr. Weinberg, to continue to May 5<sup>th</sup>. Vote: 7-0.

#### **Request for Determination of Applicability – MBTA Right of Way Vegetation Management/TEC Associates**

Staff said that the site visit (via the railroad vehicle) had not taken place and that the applicant would like to continue to the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Ms. Feldman, to continue to the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Vote: 7-0.

## **Request for Determination of Applicability – MBCR Right of Way Vegetation Management/ TEC Associates**

Staff said that the site visit (via the railroad vehicle) had not taken place and that the applicant would like to continue to the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Mr. Weinberg, to continue to the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Vote: 7-0.

## **Other Business**

### **Ranger Update**

*Documents: Proposal from William Grafton*

*Dated: April 5, 2011*

The ranger, Bill Grafton, was present to update the Commission on his activities and present his proposal for 5 additional hours a week for 8 weeks. Mr. Grafton said he wanted to monitor the Devon Woods conservation restriction land, certify vernal pools and work with the US Forester (Tom Rawinski) to set up the study plots for deer browse impacts.

Ms. Feldman asked for more information what Mr. Grafton and Mr. Rawinski are planning to do. Mr. Grafton said they would set up study plots in areas with beech or oak sprouts or vascular plants to monitor for browsing. Mr. Grafton said the enclosures recommended by Mr. Rawinski could come as a second phase. Mr. Murphy said he is working with an eagle scout to take on the enclosures and that the scout would be responsible for raising the money for materials to build the enclosures.

Ms. Feldman asked how many days the plot set-up would take. Mr. Grafton said Mr. Rawinski would come for 4-6 days in May to set them up. Ms. Feldman expressed concern about the hours. Mr. Grafton said he was confident he could provide for this in the budget he is requesting and that Mr. Rawinski may do some of this work on his own.

Staff provided a copy of the conservation fund expenditures to date and remaining balance in the fund. Mr. Flynn said that since the fund is not being replenished, he is concerned about drawing it down and leaving nothing for the future. He suggested the Commission consider spending only the interest on the fund and leave the principal. Ms. Feldman said that in her experience the interest on the town's bonds was low. Staff will check on this and report back.

Mr. Weinberg said the filing fees for Wetland Protection Act applications must go into a separate account which be used by the Commission. Staff said those fees can only be used for administering the Wetland Protection Act.

Ms. Feldman said she supported leaving the principal of this fund for emergencies or land acquisition and spending only the interest.

Mr. Flynn said he feels that the deer browse monitoring project is critical for developing information and metrics.

Mr. Grafton noted the statistical data generated in Mr. Rawinski's studies.

Ms. Feldman said she didn't know if the data would be a decision-maker but that it would be good information.

Mr. McMorrow asked staff how much is spent from the fund in an average year. Staff said there is no average year because the Commission just started using it in the last two years. She also said that staff is trying to move expenses for Sunset Lake treatment and tree maintenance to the operating budget of the Planning Department because those expenses are not related to conservation land.

Mr. McMorrow said he supported taking advantage of this opportunity with Mr. Rawinski.

Mr. Grafton said that in his time with the Norwell Conservation Commission he has learned of grant opportunities for land acquisition from the Doris Duke foundation and the William P. Wharton trust.

Mr. Grafton said he recently attended a regional forum on deer management with representatives from Framingham and other metro west towns. Mr. Flynn said he was interested in how Framingham got to the point of allowing hunting.

Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Mr. Weinberg, to allow Bill Grafton an additional 40 hours over the months of April and May. Vote: 7-0.

### **Site Visit to Conservation Land**

Staff said the Commission had discussed doing a site visit at the end of April to the major conservation areas. Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am was chosen as the date. Staff will send email reminders and coordinate meeting place.

### **Great Oak Treatment**

Staff said that the Commission has funded treatment (spraying for winter moth and fertilizing) of the Great Oak on Gilbert Bean Dr. for many years and asked the Commission if they wished to fund this year's treatment, based on the proposal from Bartlett Tree. Mr. Flynn said that fertilizing every year was unnecessary but that spraying for winter moth was essential.

Staff asked the Commission if they are also willing to fund the spraying of 126 of the trees planted as part of Mayor Sullivan's 500 tree program. Mr. Flynn said it was important to protect the investment in the trees.

Motion by Mr. McMorrow, second by Ms. Francis, to commit the funds for spraying the 126 trees (\$1008) and spraying the Great Oak (\$320 for two treatments). Vote: 7-0.

## **Minutes**

*Documents: Minutes of 3/24/11 meeting*

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Murphy, to accept the March 24<sup>th</sup> minutes. Vote: 7-0.

## **Adjorn**

Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Mr. Weinberg, to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. Vote: 7-0.